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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1A

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 15 Dec. 1949

SUBJECT Yugoslav Measures Concerning the Clergy
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SUPPLEMENT TO

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1. The Yugoslav Government is utilizing renegade members of the Catholic clergy in an attempt to recruit new followers from the ranks of the Slovene clergy. Reportedly, the Government is considering regulating the clergy according to the pattern set in Czechoslovakia. Thus, the clergy would have to swear allegiance to the state in order to receive salaries and for minor concessions to be granted to the Roman Catholic Church.
2. Such measures would only receive support from a small group of dissidents in the Catholic clergy, who are already pro-Tito, as well as from a few exceptions in the regular clerical ranks. However, the vast majority would remain faithful to the Catholic Church and to the orders of the Bishop. Bishop Vouk of Ljubljana is popular with the people and would steadfastly resist the regime if any attempt were made to regiment the clergy.
3. Bishop Srebrnic, on Krk Island, has allegedly declared that Tito's present policy towards the Catholic Church is markedly more lenient than it has been heretofore.

25X1A

Comment: The renegade clergy probably refers to the pro-Tito Cyril Methodius Society. In this connection, your attention is drawn to [REDACTED], entitled Relation of the Catholic Clergy in Slovenia to the Regime, distributed 18 October 1949.

25X1A

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 15 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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